

\*\*\*\*\*

\* " THE LOVE BANDIT #\*

\* Property of \*

\* Johnnie \*

\* Speer. \*

\*  
\*  
\*



" THE LOVE BANDIT "

CAST

JULIAN ..... LEAD  
ROY GIDDONS ..... HEAVY  
PANCHLO LOPEZ ..... MEXICAN BANDIT  
AUNT EPPIE ..... CHARACTER OLD WOMAN.  
FLORA GIDDONS ..... LEAD

SETTING

The interior of a ranch house in Arizona on the  
border. Rough interior. Cactus and desert backing. Doors  
C. L. and R. Half of stairway landing on R. Table down L.

PROPS

Suit case  
Table  
Two chairs  
Set of spurs hanging on wall  
Two sure fire guns  
Mortgage and option papers  
Gong off stage.  
Bag of Dirt Samples.



"THE LOVE BANDIT"

JULIAN

(ENTERS R. CARRIES A SUIT CASE WHICH HE SETS DOWN ON THE TABLE. PUTS SOME LITTLE KNICK NACKS. THEN X'S TO THE L. AND CALLS OFF) Venustiana Tell him to never mind the cooking now. Just hurry up and get our thing packed. The sooner we leave this place I guess the better. (BEGINS PACKING AGAIN\*

AUNT EPPIE

(ENTERS R. SHE HOBBLIES WITH A CANE.) Hump! I see you're getting all packed. Instead of trying to do something about it, you're just going to pack up and leave? Oh what a fool I was to let you take my money and invest it in this ranch. You take my ten thousand dollars and put it in this god forsaken hole in the ~~Mexican Desert~~. ARIZONA DESERT.

JULIAN

Aunt Eppie, I did not take your money from you; I only borrowed it.

EPPIE

Yes, you borrowed it---but you'll never pay me back. Got me to sell my place in Rosedale. Now don't you go denyin' you didn't get me into this.

JULIAN

Yes, Auntie, I did. It's my fault. I got you to sell your place and buy this ranch. And I could of made of a go of this place if the war hadn't of come along and called me away---

EPPIE

Yes, you get me down here in Arizona and then run off to war and leave me on the desert with a lot of cows and a flock of Mexican bandits to steal them from me. It's a wonder I haven't been murdered. (JULIAN LAUGHS) Well, that's what that bandit Pancho Lopez does with his victims

JULIAN

Well, we can be thankful that the bandit Pancho Lopez has never made a personal call at our ranch---all he's done is steal my cattle when my back was turned. That's why I don't believe it was his work --it was some of the other cattle rustlers around here, because when Pancho Lopez decides to make a raid on a ranch, he calls in person and really does a nice job of it.

EPPIE

Yes, he 's just liable to call and carry me off to his hide out. That's what I've heard he does to the women who attract him--

JULIAN

Now, Auntie, don't tell me that you think you would look good to a man like Pancho Lopez.

EPPIE

Never can tell. I might have just what he wants. But this is not getting any where---Julian you could save this ranch if you only would. You know you mortgaged it to Claire Watkins' father---well she's crazy about you

and --

JULIAN

Now let's not start that argument over again. I don't love Claire Watkins and I'm not going to sell myself to her to save this ranch or anything---



No, you're going to let me starve in the street I suppose. When we let the mortgage be foreclosed on this ranch today where are we going-- I ask you, where are we going?

JULIAN

CIVILIZATION

Oh, I've got enough money for us to get back to the ~~states~~ and I'll get work somewhere--and--

EPPIE

And I'll go to the poorhouse I guess. Me, that's an invalid in poor health. Oh when I think of that ten thousand dollars I let you have it makes me so mad I could bust my cane over your head. Now look here, Julian, you go and marry Claire Watkins and get her to make her old man extend that mortgage on this place---

JULIAN

Nothin' doin', Auntie--

EPPIE

I know why you won't do it---you're still in love with Flora Giddons. That's another bone head trick of yours, inviting her and her husband to come here and spend their vacation on this ranch. I'll bet you done it just to get to be around her. Well if her husband ever catches you--

JULIAN

Nonsense. Flora and I were sweethearts a long time ago--that was in my school days. Flora is straight with her husband even though she does not love him.

EPPIE

Oh I've heard that bunk before---Flora wouldn't do anything wrong--- huh not much--unless you just gave her a little encouragement.

JULIAN

Now look here, Auntie, are you trying to say that I've been making love to Flora? I

EPPIE

I don't know. Am I? What were you two doing out in the moonlight last night?

JULIAN

Why---why --just talkin'---and amusing ~~h~~ ourselves. We were reading poetry. I'd read to her and then we'd both read together. I believe we were reading Shakespeare.

EPPIE

Oh yes--I've read Shakespeare myself. Look here, young man, you can't read a book out doors at night--even if the moon is shining--

JULIAN

well, there was nothing between us-

(FLORA ENTERS R. UNNOTICED)

EPPIE

Of course there wasn't--you were both pressed up to each other<sup>50</sup> that you couldn't have got a piece of paper in between you---The idea. Here we are about to be thrown out of our home, and all you've got to do is marry Claire Watkins and all would be well, --

JULIAN

Oh go sit on a bumble bee.



3

Well, if I did, I wouldn't get stung any worse than I have been. (FLORA  
CLEARS HER THROAT TO ATTRACT ATTENTION)

JULIAN

(TURNING TO HER) Flora! I was not aware that you were standing there--

FLORA

Oh I just came in. Roy has been out walking around--and he left me out on the porch to read--- I thought maybe you might want to read to me--

EPPIE

Oh, he couldn't read to you now--it's too much day light--wait till the moon shines---and then he'll read you Shakespeare. (EXITS ANGRILY L.)

FLORAD JULIAN

Don't mind Aunt Eppie, Flora.

FLORA

Oh I don't, but, Julian, I couldn't help but hear her telling you to marry Clair Watkins --I--

JULIAN

Oh she's crazy--she wants me to try and get Claire to square it with her old man about this mortgage--you see, Flora, if I don't get ten thousand dollars by tonight at seven, I lose the ranch.

FLORA

Oh, Julian, perhaps I can get my husband to help you--

JULIAN

No, I'm afraid he wouldn't do that, Flora. I guess I'm just a failure that's all. Every since the day I left the old home town to try and make a fortune--its seems like my hands were made of mud or something--every job or deal I took always failed--the only happiness I've know has been the joy of seeing you once again.

FLORA

I'm glad too that we happened to meet once again after all these years.

JULIAN

All these years. You talk as though you were a hundred.

FLORA

I'm twanty six. I was eighteen when you went away. You went without my even knowing Why didn't you tell me good-bye?

JULIAN

Oh I was borke--and I-- my pride wouldn't let me tell you. I just thoug that I would go away, and find a fortune--I guess I thought I'd find it growing on a tree or something.

FLORA

It hurt me so that you went away. I thought that I had offended you-- or--oh what foolish pride you had. Everything could have been so different.

JULIAN

You're not happy with your husband, are you, Flora? Isn't he good to you?

FLORA

Oh in a way--but I---you know that I don't love him---I--



(STARTS FOR HER) Flora--

FLORA

(PUTTING UP A WARNING HAND) But he is my husband--we are bound to each other man and wife! (BOTH LOOK AT EACH OTHER THEN BOW THEIR HEADS)

ROY GIDDONS

(ENTERS R. SHORT PAUSE) Well, I hope I haven't intruded? My dear wife, I would like to have a few moments of Julian's valuable time if you don't mind? I want to talk to him about this ranch. (HAS BAG OF DIRT HE SETS ON TABLE)

FLORA

Why certainly not. Do you want me to leave the room? Roy?

ROY

Stay where you are if you like. Julian, I understand that Watkins is foreclosing his ten thousand dollar mortgage on you tonight. I've decided that I'll help you out. I'm going to pay that ten thousand dollar mortgage for you and I'll give you an additional ten thousand dollars for your equity. Is that fair enough? (ENTERS AUNT EPPIE LISTENS)

JULIAN

You mean you want to buy this place?

ROY

Yes---I understand you wouldn't have MUCH money --and ten thousand would certainly help you a lot wouldn't it

JULIAN

You bet it would. I appreciate this. Do you hear that, auntie, we're going to be settin' pretty. Come on, Roy, and I'll make out the papers right away. (THEY EXIT L.)

FLORA

Oh, I'm glad that my husband is doing that---I was going to ask him to help you.

AUNT EPPIE

Funny he got so generous all of a sudden? (SEES SACK OF DIRT ON THE TABLE) Did your husband bring this dirt in?

FLORA

Yes? Why?

EPPIE

Well, that's what I've been wondering. For the past two days I've seen him puttering around this ranch pickin' up dirt here and there and puttin' in just such sacks--what kind of goin's on is that?

FLORA

Oh I don't know unless he just likes dirt--(EXITS R.)

EPPIE

Yes, well then why don't he dig out his ears, instead of my ranch. (FEELS DIRT) I smell a nigger in the wood pile and I think I know what it is. This is dirt like they find in the oil fields. There's oil on this ranch--he's discovered it and now he's going to buy it for nothing and make a million off of what is rightfully mine. Oh I got to make that nephew of mine save this ranch if I have to kick out his brains and build him a new set. (EXITS)

\*\*\*\*\* NUMBER ONE \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*



(ENTERS WITH JULIAN) Now Julian just sign that paper there and everything will be all right. (JULIAN STARTS TO SIGN)

EPPIE

(ENTERS R. WITH FLORA) Stop it---don't sell him this ranch, Julian---there's oil on it. He's buying it to cheat us out of it.

ROY

Nonsense. I'm not cheating you out of anything. You're going to lose this place any way--how can you raise ten thousand dollars by seven to-night?

EPPIE

Easy enough if Julian would have some sense--

JULIAN

That's enough, Aunt Eppie---it's impossible. I've got to let this ranch go oil or no oil---I'm going to take Roy's offer, because it is better than nothing. (SIGNS PAPER) There you are!

EPPIE

Yes there--you are--and here we are---with nothing---with ~~three~~ a little words you just signed over a million dollars.

JULIAN

Oh don't worry, Auntie, we'll eat--

EPPIE

Yes--but what? I can't eat wind pudding---imagination salad. (RIES) Oh this too much. I've been robbed---robbed---first that Mexican bandit Pancho Lopez steals all my cows--and now I find out I've got oil a--dn this dirty bum takes it from me---(FLARING UP AT JULIAN) and it's all your fault, just beca use you won't---

JULIAN

Shut up, Aunt Eppie, please. Is that all the papers for me to sign, Roy

ROY

No, there's just one more paper here to make it legal---

EPPIE

Just one paper and it's legal larceny. (TO ROY) You think you're smart buying this place--well let me tell you one thing you'd never get it in the world if my nephew would marry Claire Watkins. And the only reason he won't marry her is because--

JULIAN

Auntie, be careful.

EPPIE

O-- I won't do it. I'm going to tell him. Roy Giddons my nephew is in love with your wife--and she's in love with him--they've been out several nights readin' Books and shakin' the speare in the moonlight--and-- (ROY GIVES FLORA A LOOK. TAKES IT CALMLY. BOTH ARE STARTLED)

FLORA JULIAN

Auntie!

EPPIE

Spilled the beans, didn't I? Well, I don't care it's the truth. If you weren't in love with Flora you'd marry Claire, and I could keep my oil wells.



JULIAN

Please don't mind her, Roy--she's all upset about losing this place--  
You don't believe her?

Never mind---I understand ROY

(CALMLY) Sign this paper right here, and then I'll give you a check.  
~~Here it is.~~ (LAYS CHECK ON TABLE. JULIAN SIGNS PAPER AND PASSES IT OVER  
TO HIM. TAKES PAPER) Thank you. (TO FLORA) And now that this is settled,  
we will proceed to matters of more importance. This gentle soul--  
(INDICATES EPPIE) has said that our friend here loves you and that you  
love him. Is it true?

JULIAN

See, here I thought we were through with all that.

ROY

You were wrong. I'm a business man. I do one thing at a time. (TO  
FLORA) Well?

JULIAN

You mean to say you took that seriously?

ROY

I'm talking to my wife. (TO FLORA) Well, I am waiting. Do you love him?

FLORA

No.

ROY

(TO JULIAN) Do you love her?

JULIAN

Certainly not.

ROY

You're a couple of rotten liars

JULIAN

But you said you didn't believe--

ROY

I didn't--then--the time was inopportune.

EPPIE

Oooh! The dirty bum. He wasn't takin' no chances on losin' this place.

ROY

But now that she hereself has admitted it byther guilty actions, I must  
believe it true. Will you two please leave me alone with my wife---I  
(GIVES FLORA AN UGLY LOOK) want to talk to her.

FLORA

(AS JULIAN LOOKS AT HER) Please? (JULIAN AND EPPIE GO UP TO THE DOOR)

EPPIE

Say now I didn't exactly mean to cause so much trouble, but I was trying  
to think of something to save this ranch from you. Listen Mr. Giddons,  
I didn't exactly mean that your wife was untrue to you---

ROY

Leave us alone -I said.

EPPIE

Well, I'm sure I didn't say anything to get no body in bad. (EXITS R.)  
(JULIAN EXITS)



Flora---come here!

FLORA

What are you going to do?

ROY

(SEES SPURS HANGING ON WALL) What I once saw another sensible husband do under these circumstances. (GEST SPURS)

FLORA

What is that?

ROY

Horses don't always know who they belong to. (DRAGS SPUR ON THE TABLE) So they are branded. (HE TAKES AHOLD OF HER HAND BY THE WRIST. SHE SHRINKS WITH TERROR) There is no reason why women eq ually as ignorant shouldn't be similarly treated.

FLORA

No! No! For God's sake--

ROY

Come here now--(HE SIEZES HER, THRUSTS HER BACK UPON THE TABLE HER ARMS PINDONED BENEATH HER AND IS ABOUT TO BRAND HER BY DRAWING THE SHAPR SPUR ACROSS HER FACE. SUDDENLY THERE IS A SHOT OFF STAGE. HE STOPS. AUNT EPPIE BACK SON THE FROM THE R.HER HANDS IN THE AIR AND TREMBLING SHE IS FOLLOWED BY PANCHO LOPEZ)

LOPEZ

Senors, si senoras--you are my prisoner. (STANDS HOLDING GUN ON THEM)

EPPIE

Oh who are you?

LOPEZ

I am Pancho Lopez, ze bandit from Mexico, who have come to take what he wants!

EPPIE

(BEGINS TO GIGLE) Oh, Mr.---Bandit---do you want me!

LOPEZ

Hell no---I come for ze young cattle for baby beef---ze old heiffers---I don't want. (CLOSE IN)

\*\*\*\*\* NUMBER TWO \*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

LOPEZ

(ALL ARE DISCOVERED ON IN SAME POSITIONS AS BEFORE) Now, my good people, I 'ope it will not be ze necessary for me to prove zat I have complete charge here. (CALLS OFF R.) Pegro. Guard ze doors, and tell ze men to go on wiz zer search of anything thing might prove valuable for me.

EPPIE

Oh, Mr. Bandit, what a nice fellow I think you are---

LOPEZ

Pah! What an old hag I zink you are!

ROY

Well, what are you going to do with us, mya I ask?



LOPEZ

I ave told you I take from here what I want---zis old woman I would not have---

EPPIE

It just shows you Mexican bandits haven't got good taste is all.

LOPEZ

Quiet, sow. I think I shall kill off most of ze people here, but as for, ze lady I shall take here with me to Mexico.

FLORA

Oh I am greatly honored, but you see I cannot go. I am a married woman.

LOPEZ

(LAUGHS) Zt make no difference. I like you. (GOES OVER TO HER) Why you trmelbe. You afraid of me--

FLORA

Why not---I have heard that you are nothing more than a cold blooded murderer.

LOPEZ

You sink it is wrong to kill? Ess nothing wrong.in a little killing.

FLORA

You talk of killing so easily. Does life mean as little to you as that?

LOPEZ

Life? To be 'ere is life. Not to be 'ere is death. Life is a little-a thing--unless it is one's own.

FLORA

Oh, you do kill your prisoners then as they say?

LOPEZE

Certamente. You capture ze prisoner. You 'ave no jail to put 'em in. You cannot pack him around wiz you. If you let 'im go he come back to fight you again. So you kill him. Sabe? Ess life. You do not undreastan' because you 'ave never really lived. Because you 'ave been always portect by ozzers. I kill only men. And only evil men. And when I kill evil man, it makes me very 'appy. For I 'ave did a good ded

FLORA

But who decides whether a man is good or evil?

LOPEZ

I do! Tell me, Senora, have you never lived in a free country --like Mexico?

FLORA

Don't you call the United States a free country?

LOPEZ

Ze united States bah---eet is the most unfree country of zem all. I have seen it from San Antonio to New York. New York. Hah what a joke. In New York you have ze cop to tell you when you can go and when you cannot go---ze cop he tell you if you what you can drink---prohibition. Eet is no longer freecountry. I know have been in New York--before pro'ibish and I get plenty drunk. I 'ave 'ell of a good time. Sure. I break the whole ten commandments in one day without muss the hair. In New York no one is trust---when one he have ze wife---and he leave her to go somewhere --he wife have lover what hide under ze bed.



In Mexico, one have ze beautiful woman, and he leave her some one not 'ide under ze bed, but in it. Ah Mexico -ze land of the free. You can do what you pleawse, where you please, when you please---zt is unless some one shoot you. Come now--enough ze talk--pronto tell me who owns zis rancho?

EPPIE

My nephew---he aint here--he's down fixin' his car because we've got leave here--

LOPEZ

I have missed someone--(CALLS OFF R.) Pedro---q uick find gringo--before he make trouble. Send him to me--- So, my dear lady, you would leave here?

EPPIE

No I wouldn't leave here but I've got. to. There's a mortgage on this place falling due at seven---I loaned my nephew all the money I had in the world --ten thousand dollars to boy this ranch---and now we are going to lose it---and right when there is oil on it. This big brook here bought my nephew's opition on the land and is going to pay the mortgage so that he can take the land himself and have the oil. Say I got an idea--if you won't let him do that--but will lend us ten thousand so we can pay off the mortgage and keep the place, we'll cut you in on the oil--and you'll make a million.

LOPEZ

I should lend you ten thousand dollars? I do not lend. I take.

ROY

Listen here, Lopez, I got a better offer to make to you than that--you let me get ahold of this land and I'll give you fifteen thousand dollars cold cash right now--

LOPEZ

Is zat all--is it not worth more zan zat to you?

ROY

Yes--I'll give you fifty thousand dollars---How's that sound?

LOPEZ

(SHRUGS SHOULDERS) Fifty thousand?

ROY

Seventy five thousand--

LOPEZ

You have zat much money in ze bank you can give to me?

ROY

I have more than that. Come will you help me---

LOPEZ

No---I only ask you zeze question to see how much money you have and if you are worth my taking you as a prisoner. Now I see you are very valuable I' take you with me and hold you for ransom.

EPPIE ROY

What?

EPPIE

(LAUGHING) Ha ha that's a good one on you, you bum. You thought he was going to help you, but instead you blab to him how much your worth. I'm



LOPEZ

So am I--for you would be too much bother for me to fool wiz--come--  
(TO ROY) I take you for ransom and your wife I take for my woman. Too  
long she has been married to you. I must take her and show her life  
and love--

FLORA

But I don't want love.

LOPEZ

It is not what you want. It is what I want. I am ze law 'ere .

JULIAN

(ENTERS R. ARUES WITH MEXICANS OFF STAGE) See here what's goin on?  
(STOPS) Pancho Lopez!

LOPEZ

(STARING AT JULIAN) As I live--it is you? Look in my face---remember  
back eight year ago--and tell me where you see me---pronto.

JULIAN

Why you were a poor Mexican peon whom I helped once--- when you were  
hurt.

LOPEZ

You saved my life. You were my frand, and as such you are now. Pancho  
Lopez never forget ze good deed done to him. Ah what you think of life.  
When you save me I was poor nobody, but now I rise to be ze great man--  
ze man who put ze fear of Christ in ze gringos all over. Ah, my rand  
d o you own zis place? Are you ze nephew of ze old woman here?

JULIAN

Why yes--

LOPEZ

Ah she have told me how she loan you ten thousand dollars for to buy  
zis ranch and then you not make ze go off it and have to give heem away  
tonight.

JULIAN

Yes, I bought this ranch and then the war came, I had to go away and  
leave it--during that time the bandits stole <sup>all</sup> of my cattle and made  
me penniless.

LOPEZ

And now you feel ver' sad for that. My frand, you have no trouble.

JULIAN

You mean you can get me out of this mess?

LOPEZ

In one little hour, my frand. In one little hour your trouble go poof!  
Ah tis lucky for you I reckonize you. Now I shall make you once more  
again 'appy man. If I do zat, what then?

JULIAN

If you do that, they'll have to tie me down to keep me from kissing you.

LOPEZ

(SLAPPING JULIAN ON SHOULDER) Bueno! She is did.



Oh, Mr. Bandit, are you really going to help us out?

LOPEZ

Not you--my frand who save my life.

EPPIE

Hump--you wouldn't have to be helpin' us out if he had any sense himself. If he'd marry Claire Watkins, she could get her father to cancell the mortgage, but ---he's in love with that woman there--(POINTS TO FLORA)

LOPEZ

He loves this woman? I'm glad I know this. (TO FLORA) You love heem?

FLORA

Oh don't talk of love. I'm married. I'm married to this man.

LOPEZ

But if you love my fran' why you don't go to ze judge in ze court and ask for ze divorce---is it not an American custom? Why?

EPPIE

I'll tell you why, because she aint got no money. Her husband's rich, but she don't get no money herself. He's worth millions, the big bum.

LOPEZ

Millions! And yet 'e give nossing to ze wife. Tell me, senora, in your country does the widow get the money from the 'usband when 'e is dead? (ROY GIVES STARTLED LOOK. TO EPPIE) ~~Deakkkkk~~ You know?

EPPIE

She gets it all, that is, if the husband hasn't made a will.

LOPEZ

(TO ROY) 'Ave you? 'Ave you made a will---?

ROY

No, damn you! But I'm going to, the first chance I get.

LOPEZ

Good! I have an idea--how to help you--my fran'. (TAKES OUT GUN LOOKS AT IT)

FLORA

Oh stop it. This is horrible. Horrible. I ~~wantkkk~~ don't want to hear any more of it. (EXITS L.)

JULIAN

Poor girl, she's all upset, Lopez.

LOPEZ

You go in and comfort her. (JULIAN EXITS)

EPPIE

Yes---go read Shakespeare to her. (EXITS B.J.)

LOPEZ

Ah I see my way clear now. I soon make my fran' happy. From you I will take ten thousand dollars and give it to thesee man who holds mortgage. Then after I give it to heem, I will take it away from heem and give it to you, sour face, to pay you back loan which you give to your nephew

EPPIE

Then I'm going to get my money back out of this. Well, it's more than



D expected. Say, Mr. Bandit, do you care if I go in the other 12 room and put some powder on my nose---

LOPEZ

For to make you beautiful, eh? Pah it take more zen powder to make you beautiful.

EPPIE

Oh well, "Beauty is only skin deep."

LOPEZ

Zen for heaven sake run in ze other room and skin yourself.

EPPIE

Hump! (EPPIE EXITS NOSE IN THE AIR)

ROY

Say just what do you intend to do with me?

LOPEZ

It shall cost me planty money. I could 'ave taken you wiz me for ransome--helluva big ransome--a million dollar. But I am not so did.

ROY

You aren't going to hold me for ransom? What are you going to do?

LOPEZ

Kill you?

ROY

(NOT EXACTLY UNDERSTANDING) Kill me? You--you're joking.

LOPEZ

Do I look like joker?

ROY

You sit there, like that, and talk of killing me in cold blood!

LOPEZ

I do not like you. Nobody like you. Alive you are no good. Dead you make two people which I love 'appy.

ROY

Oh I see--you would kill me so that my wife can marry him. If that's all, I'll give her a divorce--

LOPEZ

You swel give 'er a divorce?

ROY

Of course, if that's what you want. Don't you see? If that's all you want he can have her. I'll give her to him. I will! (HE GETS THE THOUGHT NOW THAT THE BANDIT IS REALLY GOING TO KILL HIM) I swear I will

LOPEZ

I would look at you once before I shoot.

ROY

Why?

LOPEZ

I have seen mans what would not fight for zier money. I 'ave seen mans



13  
which would not fight for zeir lives. But I 'ave never before seen mens  
which would not fight for 'is woman.

ROY

But if you kill me you'll be hanged!

LOPEZ

If I am ever caught I shall be 'anged many times. (LEVELS GUN AT HIM)

ROY

Wait! I'll give you money! Plenty of money. A million. Two million.

LOPEZ

It is not zat I want money. It is zat I don't want you.

ROY

(AS LOPEZ RAISES GUN AGAIN) You mean you're going to kill me? No! For the love of God don't do that. (GRAVELING BEFORE TABLE WHICH IS BETWEEN HIM AND LOPEZ) I'll do anything. Go anywhere! He can have her. You can have her! Her, and all my money if you'll only spare my life.

LOPEZ

(WITH DISUGEST) I never know before zat even a dog could be so yellow. ~~I PUTSK~~ I am most ashamed to use my gun on you---I 'ave never used to hunt rabbits before. But I must do it. (PULLS TRIGGER BAG)

ROY

(IN HYSTERICS OF FRIGHT) No! For the love of God. (ALMOST DROPPING TO KNEES. LOPEZ PULLS ~~SM~~TRIGGER GUN FIRES. ~~LOPEZ~~ ROY DROPS DOWN. EPPIE FLORA AND JULIAN ENTER)

JULIAN

(SEES ROY) What! You've killed him!

LOPEZ

I 'ave. Most enjoyishly.

JULIAN

He's dead.

LOPEZ

Completly. I never miss.

JULIAN

But to kill him like that!

LOPEZ

Why not? Ze svindler, ze coward, what beat ze wife! He was a evil man.

FLORA

(LOOKING AT HIM) Oh is he really dead?

EPPIE

(LIFTS UP ONE OF HIS FEET. SMELLS) Yep--he's dead!

\*\*\*\* NUMBER THREE \*\*\*\*

LOPEZ

Ah, my fran' I 'ave told you I would help you. In your American way it would take much time and bother to do away with him and get what you want. One hour ago you 'ave no money, no rancho, no woman. One little hour. Now the money she is paid, ze rancho she is yours, and ze woman t that you want to marry wiz is free for do so! Tell me. 'Ave I not kept my promise. 'Ave I not make you in one little hour a 'appy man!



JULIAN

But Lopez, don't you understand? You've killed him.

LOPEZ

I 'ave. You need not thank me, it was a pleasure. Now you must marry  
WITH HER

JULIAN

But don't you see--we can never marry now--his dead body is barrier  
between us now--more so than if he were alive.

LOPEZ

Ees no way for pliz you. If I do not kill the 'usband ees all wrong.  
If I do kill ze 'usband ees all wrong. Say, what ze 'ell shall I do  
wiz zē dam' usband, anyway?

JULIAN

I don't know I--(NOISE OFF STAGE. HE RUNS TO THE DOOR) Look! It's the  
rangers--the Texas rangers---they're coming here--

LOPEZ

Ah ze rangers--zat is my signal to go. Adios my 'fran'. mI not know if  
I see you some more--maybe so--maybe not. Be not a fool though---Marry  
ze 'oman and make her happy---be sensible my 'rend--like Mexians---  
Adios! I am away--(EXITS NOISE OF SHOUTS AND HORSES HOOF'S FLEETING AWAY

JULIAN

(GOES TO FLORA WHO IS SOBBING ON CHAIR) Pull yourself together, Flora-

EPPIE

(LOOKS AT ROY ON FLOOR AND LETS OUT A YELL SUDDENLY) Look! He moved!  
I seen him.

JULIAN

(RUNS TO ROY) Roy---aren't you dead? (RAISES HIM UP) He isn't---he's  
alive.

EPPIE

I knew it was too good to be true.

ROY

No--I--I'm all right--I--I'm just stunned---that bullet grazed my temple  
is all--It sort of glanced off my head.

EPPIE

He should have shot him in the stummick.

FLORA

(DOWN TO HIM) Let me help you up, dear--

ROY

Get away from me. You all thought I was dead-- well---I lived just to  
disappoint you--I've still got the option on this land, and I'm going to  
get it---I'm going to pay off that mortgage and take this land ---  
(CLOCK STRIKES SEVEN OFF STAGE) What is that?

EPPIE

Seven o'clock. We both losse. The land belongs to old manWatkins now.  
That was the terms if it wasn't paid by seven he had the right to take  
land. Well, we'll just have to get ready to go tha t's all there is  
left to do.

(EXITS R.)



So. We're right back just where we started from!

JULIAN

Not quite. (TO FLORA) We're going to have this thing out. You can never go back to him now.

FLORA

Never--take me with you, Julian.

JULIAN

(TO ROY) Do you hear that? She's mine now?

ROY

(SWAYS A LITTLE) Huh? What were you saying. I--I'm not quite all there yet--this wound you know---

FLORA

I was saying had I known what you are I never would have married you. But now that I do know I never could live with you again

ROY

So you want to leave me, eh? And go with him. Well, this will blast your reputation, but then I guess it's yours to do as you like with it. All right. I've no objection

JULIAN

You'll give her up? You don't intend to--

ROY

To fight you? Not me. I've had all the fighting I want for one day. I---I'll just go back to New York and--and forget that you two ever existed--I--(SWAYS) Oh my head---have you got something to drink--I--

JULIAN

Yes--here--(GOES NEAR HIM WITH GLASS OF WINE. AS HE STANDS NEAR HIM ROY QUICKLY REACHES IN JULIAN'S HOLSTER AND PULLS OUT HIS GUN)

ROY

Now I've got you where I want you.

JULIAN

Why damn you--(SEES HIS GUN IS GONE)

ROY

Make a fool out of me, will you, you s--

FLORA

He means it, Julian. (THROWS HERSELF IN JULIAN'S ARMS)

ROY

Our wife is right. It isn't killing you that I mind. It's being killed that I object to.

JULIAN

They'll hang you.

ROY

The unwritten law works as well in Arizona as in other places. (TO FLORA) Get away from him.

FLORA

(CLINGING) I won't.



All right. Then take what's coming to you and go to hell together.

JULIAN

(AS HE RAISES GUN THROWS FLORA TO ONE SIDE) You'd better shoot straight Because, by God! if you miss--(ROY RAISES GUN TO PULL TRIGGER. SHOT IS FIRED OFF STAGE R. AND HE DROPS DOWN. LOPEZ ENTERS WITH GUN IN HAND)

LOPEZ

Santa Maria del Rio de Gaudeloupe! 'ow many times must I kill you today any 'ow? Now, damn to 'ell, maybe you stay dead for awhile, ah? (DRAGS BODY OUT R. TO OFF STAGE) Take him away ees no use for nobody no more. Save ze boots and ze clothes tho'. (TO JULIAN) Now zen you are all right some more, eh?

JULIAN

Yes--I guess so--but how did you get away from the rangers, Lopez?

LOPEZ

Oh me--I have ze double--I dress ze man up to look like me---ze rangers chase him while I stay behind. It saves me much hexercise. But say waht you do now ah?

JULIAN

I don't know. We've got to go some where. I've got to get a job. We've lost the place. It's after seven now.

LOPEZ

True ees after seven but you ave not lost ze place for at ten minutes to seven I have pay ze morgidge. I zink what would happen if you did not make payment so I make hee m myself. Ees receipt. (HAND IT TO HIM)

JULIAN

But where--where did you get the money?

LOPEZ

Ees all right. While rangers chase my double, I go to ze town and rob ze bank.

JULIAN

Rob the bank. It's all off again.

LOPEZ

No, it's not all off again, for I am become business man what are tired myself. I take ze money to lawyer what are frand for me. 'E go to the judge and tell him Senor Jones send money to pay for the morggidge. 'E tells ze judge, the judge say sure and 'and him reciept. Now you have home--and are you not too going to get one million dollar from ze 'usband what I kill?

FLORA

OH! You don't thin k we'd touch one penny of that, do you?

LOPEZ

Why not. I 'ave killed him before he make out ze qill. Ze law give you hees money. But whether you take ze jmoney or not it makes no matte You shall still be rich and have planty. I shall send back all ze cattle what I steal from you and planty more what I shall steal for you myself personal. Now zen I have fulfilled my promise to my frend, You have ze money, ze lady, everyzing.



JULIAN  
But Lopez, don't you understand I can't marry her now?

LOPEZ  
Why not---what strange Americano you are--I can no please you at all--

JULIAN  
Don't you see by kill ing him you have made it impossible--I cannot take her over his dead body--I can't accept blood money---No I cannot accept this ranch and Flora under these conditions. We will have to wait now--Perhaps sometime--

LOPEZ  
(HIS ATTITUDE CHANGES WITH A SNEER HE COMES TO JULIAN) Tpa la Boca! Ees no use for talk wiz such fools. You make me seek! Such hideas! Not fit for ze childs to 'ave. No blood! No courage! Only ze liver what are white and ze soul what are yellow. Americanos. Bah Fishes Zat is all. Fishes what ees poor. Bah. For you I am finish.

JULIAN  
I'm sorry.

LOPEZ  
Sorry. Ees all you can say is--sorry. All day I 'ave try to make ze man from you? It are no use. Ees no man in you. Only fool what am sorry. All right. You will not let me make you 'appy. Bueno! Zen I shall go back and make you on'appy and serve you dam' good--right. '(INDICATING FLORA) You will not take 'er?

JULIAN  
I've tried to explain--

LOPEZ  
Well, zen I take her! All day I 'ave want 'er. She appeal to me--I like her eyes--I like her hair--I like her --(LIFTS UP DRESS) She damn good 'woman. And yet I give her to you. For ze first time in my life I have want woman all day and not--take her but--as favor I give 'er to you. Now since you too dam' big fool to take 'er yourself I take 'er myself and what you know about 'im? (TAKES AHOLD OF FLORA) Come--you go wiz me.

JULIAN  
(FACING LOPEZ) Wait a minute. You mean this?

LOPEZ  
Everybody sink I am joker today.(ROUGHLY TAKING FLORA TO R.) Come we go.

JULIAN  
(PICKS UP GUN FROM FLOOR) I'm damned if you do. (LOPEZ TURNS TO HIM) (STARTS TO REACH FOR HIS GUN) Drop it. I know what you've tried to for me and I'm not ungrateful, but when it comes to this there is only one thing that I must do.

LOPEZ  
You will not shoot?

JULIAN  
I will--if I must.

LOPEZ  
Oh, the wolf in the sheep's overcoat.



18

JULIAN  
I mean it. I'll give you just three seconds to let her go and get out of here. One--two--

LOPEZ  
Don't shoot! Don't shoot! (LAUGHS. RELEASES FLORA) Ah my frand. I 'ave made ze man from you at last. Fine man what would kill for his woman

JULIAN  
JULIAN  
(REALIZING) I would have killed you.

LOPEZ  
I know. And it makes me ver' 'appy--for at last you 'ave become ze man of intelligence. .You will take her now--my fran'd

JULIAN  
Yes--

LOPEZ  
Good. Then I must go--Inleave you to live and love. No, you shall not thank me Ees I shall thank you for 'ere in your quiet home you 'ave give me the most peaceful day I 'ave spent in years. Ees 'appy day for you--ees 'appy day for me. Long may you live. ( KISSES FLORA'S HAND)  
Adios--my frand--you will name the baby for me sometime--Panchito--Panchita---I shall be Padreno--godpapa--not the first one, perhaps---but maybe by and by later. Adios--my frend---I am away! (STARTS OUT DOOR)

EPPIE  
(ENTERS LL) Oh---Mr. Bandit---are you going?

LOPEZ  
Si, senorita.

EPPIE  
Will you come back sometime?

LOPEZ  
Perhaps.

EPPIE  
I wish you would--(GIGGLES) "aybe we might get better acquainted--

LOPEZ  
Wiz---you---I no think so.

EPPIE  
Well, aren't you going to say good bye to me--

LOPEZ  
Ah---yes, senorita, I will say good bye to you in Mexicano--you underst Mexicano? talk?

EPPIE  
Not much---

LOPEZ  
Good then for you I say---Bisa maculae! (TIPS HAT AND EXITS)

EPPIE  
The dirty thing! (LOOKS SHOCKED JULIAN LAUGHS END PUTS ARMS AROUND FLORA)

\*\*\* FINALE \*\*\*